

*Argania spinosa* (Sapotaceae), 46969. From Algiers. Presented by Mr. T. H. Kearney of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. "Seeds collected from an *Argania* tree growing in the garden of the School of Medicine at Algiers." (Kearney.)

"A spiny, small-leaved tree from northern Africa, belonging to the Sapotaceae. It is a much-branched evergreen tree, attaining a height of from 20 to 30 feet. The fruits, the size of an olive, are used for feeding stock. After the small kernels have been roasted and ground, an oil of an irritating and harsh taste is extracted from them. This is, nevertheless, used in Morocco for food, and also for light. It makes a good soap. The tree will grow in the driest soil, and bears in four years. It is said not to be in full bearing, however, until fifteen years old." (Swingle.)

"The Argan tree is in many respects the most remarkable plant of South Morocco; and it attracts the more attention as it is the only tree that commonly attains a large size, and forms a conspicuous feature of the landscape in the low country near the coast. In structure and properties it is nearly allied to the tropical genus *Sideroxylon* (Ironwood); but there is enough of general resemblance to the familiar olive tree of the Mediterranean region, both in its mode of growth and its economic uses, to make it the local representative of that plant. Its home is the sub-littoral zone of southwestern Morocco, where it is common between the rivers Tensift and Sous. A few scattered trees only, are said to be found north of the Tensift; but it seems to be not infrequent in the hilly district between the Sous and the river of Oued Noun, making the total extent of its distribution about 200 miles. Extending from near the coast for a distance of 30 or 40 miles inland, it is absolutely unknown elsewhere in the world. The trunk always divides at a height of 8 or 10 feet from the ground, and sends out numerous, spreading, nearly horizontal branches. The growth is apparently very slow, and the trees that attain a girth of 12 to 15 feet are probably of great antiquity. The minor branches and young shoots are beset with stiff, thick spines, and the leaves are like those of the olive in shape, but of a fuller green, somewhat paler on the under side. Unlike the olive, the wood is of extreme hardness, and seemingly indestructible by insects, as we saw no example of a hollow trunk. The fruit, much like a large olive in appearance, but varying much in size and shape, is greedily devoured by goats, sheep,